



Governor Terry E. Branstad

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

San Wong, Director

## **Juvenile Reentry Task Force/JReS Minutes of Regular Meeting**

Jessie Parker Building  
510 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Knudsen Room  
Des Moines, IA 50319

December 9, 2015

**Present:** Ralph Allbee; Heather Burkhart; Amy Carpenter; Jim Chesnik; Jackie Gray; Mary Jackson; Karen Jones; Eric Kool; Jessica Kropf; Carl Kruger; Gary Niles; Lettie Prell; John Spinks; Joan Vandenberg; Susan Walkup; Rep. Mary Lynn Wolfe;  
Youth Members: Logan Meyers, Jack Fitzpatrick

**Staff:** Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Julie Rinker; Laura Roeder-Grubb; Kile Beisner; Jeff Regula

- **Call to Order – Steve Michael**
- **Welcome/Introductions – Michael**

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. The focus of the group will transition from planning to action.

- **Minutes – October 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Vote) – Michael**

**Susan Walkup moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting, seconded by John Spinks. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- **CJJP Activities Since 10/27 Meeting**
  - **Update of Feedback from National Consultants**

Dave Kuker reported on conference calls with consultants who have emphasized that the purpose of the project is to learn from the pilot sites (Iowa, North Carolina, and Virginia) and reminded that the nation is watching. He and Laura Roeder-Grubb will attend an inter-site conference next week in Washington, DC.

- **Discussions With State Agencies**

Kuker reported on recent discussions with state agencies:

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) has transition planning measures that can be used in this effort;
- A DHS transition specialist will be added to this group.
- The Department of Education (DoE) can provide time lapses between group care and school enrollment.
- State Court Administration will be posting the reentry coordinator position; a job

description is being developed.

- **Review – Subcommittee Overview Document**
  - **Structure/Assessment – Gary Niles, Chair**
  - **Services – Ralph Allbee, Chair**
  - **Planning/Reentry – Eric Kool, Chair**
  - **Education/Workforce – Kristi Judkins & Joan VandenBerg, Co-Chairs**

Roeder-Grubb reviewed the four subcommittees, key tasks, and individuals needed. Subcommittees were asked to prioritize tasks required to meet short-term timelines. Consideration should be given to family engagement and key outcomes required through policy changes, data collection, and performance measures. Action steps should include communication and standardized assessments, forms, and templates. Barriers should be identified and will be shared with consultants for further review/consideration.

[8:55 a.m. – Gary Niles joined the meeting]

Due to the number of school districts, the focus could possibly begin with larger metro areas. Until a statewide reentry coordinator is hired, CJJP staff will serve in the interim. Data systems should be utilized to engage workforce and education while keeping connected with youth in placement. Service considerations should include supports needed for successful reentry. The goal is to utilize YTDM (Youth Transition Decision-Making) for all youth exiting the State Training School.

A conference call will be held December 11 with subcommittee chairs. Members were encouraged to recommend individuals/agencies that should be in attendance or provide relevant information.

[9:11 a.m. – Representative Mary Lynn Wolfe joined the meeting]

- **Break Into Subcommittees – Major Activities – Performance Measures**

The subcommittees met for an hour and reported the following:

- **Education/Workforce – Joan VandenBerg**
- **Education**
  - **K-12:** Will meet with transition coordinators, special education directors, drop-out prevention coordinators, and other key personnel from Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Marshalltown school districts to discuss reentry efforts, current processes, barriers, assistance needed and ways to replicate elsewhere.
  - **Long-term Measures:** school involvement, number of student contacts while in placement, length of enrollment, participation in the YTDM process.
- **Workforce**
  - Voc Rehab is undergoing system changes through WIOA—a good time to develop strategies to work with the State Training School (STS).
  - Voc Rehab staff can provide Pre-employment Transition Services (PETS) to STS youth.
  - Some cross training is needed to learn vocabularies and services available.
- **Next steps:** VandenBerg hoped to schedule meetings by January.

- **Assessment/Structure – Gary Niles**

- Need to standardize assessments to automatically store information in the Iowa Courts Information System (ICIS).
- The R-IDA, or something similar, should be standardized for all kids in care.
- Residential treatment funding comes from various sources and should be better coordinated. Need more information from providers and measures in place.
- The standardized services referral form should be developed to comply with federal DHS regulations.
- An in-care assessment tool, similar to Florida's, should be developed.

*Discussion:* The National Career Readiness Certificate assesses applied math, reading for understanding, and reading to locate information. Through computerized testing, STS students are awarded a bronze, silver, gold, or platinum certificate. Youth match skills to jobs based on their achievement level and apply for positions. There are opportunities to develop skills so that youth can retake exams for better scores. This program is available through Voc Rehab and Workforce.

- **Planning–Eric Kool**

- Need to identify processes and technology, execution of reentry, and identification of stakeholders.
- **Processes and Technology**—several projects require coordination amongst JCS, CJJP, and ICIS.
  - Develop a case permanency plan within the Report Builder application in ICIS.
  - Investigate possibility of linking/attaching a case mapping application to the case permanency plan in ICIS.
  - Develop an option in ICIS for transition planning requirements, including the Casey Life Skills assessment, creating a 'living document'.
  - Develop alerts for transition planning or other associated deadlines.
  - Work with ICIS to implement video conferencing technology and protocols
- Work with Structure/Assessment Subcommittee regarding the ICIS referral form and incorporating the R-IDA.
- Through coordination with CJJP, JCS, and the DoE, need to develop a statewide system to receive school information, including class time, school progress and other activities including shelter. May have to be done via a web-based application. More information/investigation regarding this is needed.

- **Reentry–Eric Kool**

- Will need to work with the Services Subcommittee to identify best practices for YTDM, including after care agencies. May need to train STS staff as facilitators. A meeting will be held in January to discuss these issues with DHS.
- Establish video conferencing for families or employers unable to meet in person. May need to review current policies and video capabilities at JCS locations and other remote sites.
- Need to standardize the initiation of services prior to discharge—Title XIX, Integrated Health Homes, Workforce, aftercare agencies, etc.
- May need to review group care contract language for video conferencing capabilities, YTDM staff training/qualifications, and coordination with other agencies including Workforce, JCO's, ICIS, schools, aftercare agencies, and DHS.

*Discussion:* Consideration should be given to family supports, minimal family expectations, and individuals that could provide supportive relationships. Need to acknowledge that some relationships (family and schools) have been damaged, may need to look at restorative justice and relationship building.

- **Services—Ralph Allbee**

- Coordination is key
- YTDM—will work with Planning Subcommittee
- Medicaid—Jim Chesnik will investigate further to determine a process to re-enroll/un-suspend services for juveniles, similar to what is being done on the adult side. A meeting will be held in January with DHS.
- CASA—a project in Polk is expanding to Linn County. A pilot to standardize the referral process would be conducted for youth returning to Polk or Linn counties. Advocates would mentor youth, meeting with them while in placement prior to returning to home community.
- MDFT—Department of Public Health provides services in certain areas through YSS. Funding from this grant would allow expansion. Services would be provided to STS youth and families three months prior to release and three months after returning home. Allbee will look into the matter and provide an update.
- Workforce—Want youth to have the national certification, job training, and employment opportunities once returned to the community.
- Wraparound services—funds for the eight judicial districts will be overseen by the reentry coordinator.

- **Next Steps – Large Group Discussion - Michael & Subcommittee Chairs**

- Subcommittee chairs need to contact those individuals/agencies that have been identified.
- Michael will contact State Court Administration regarding the coordinator posting/hiring process.
- A kickoff event will be scheduled once a coordinator has been hired and some grant details have been remedied.

- **Next meeting**

There was consensus to meet on January 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. More details will be provided closer to the meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning